

Omagh Photography Club Newsletter



Next meeting

Monday 20 February 2012
at 7.30pm in Omagh Library

NB: Two Competitions:

“OLD AGE” (People or Things) and **“HDR”**
(Up to 12"x10" & also 18"x6" panorama prints)

www.omaghphotoclub.co.uk



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Evaluating Photographs (20 February)

Tonight we are going to chat about what we see in photographs. We'll split into four groups and spend about 15-30 mins or so studying 3 or 4 prints - *not ours!* Together we will discover how our interpretation of 'the image' is usually a very personal thing - *everyone has their own idea of what makes a good photograph!* - although there are some basics we all need to get right.

To assist in this process it could be useful to look at **“Right, so how can you do a photo critique?”** before Monday. You'll find this on page 2. It's one method of assessing photographs - just a starter - there are many other ways of doing so! Also you may find it useful to refer to the **“Tips for Self Assessment”** in the download page on the website.

What's in Your Bag?

Don't miss Peter's demonstration of a compact, inexpensive and safe way of transporting all that valuable photographic gear.

Camera Care

Following on from the sensor cleaning service introduced last year Peter will run through some of the basics so that your camera remains in pristine condition at all times.

THEMES
Landscape
B&W
Portrait
Macro
Textures
Urban
Doorways
Ruins
HDR
Still Life

TRIPARTITE COMP.

To help with selection of entries for the 'Tripartite' we are adding two themes, **'Doorways'** and **'Ruins'**, to our POTY competition:

5 March themes - **Contre Jour** and **'Doorways'**
19 March themes - **Textures** and **'Ruins'**

So why not take this opportunity to shoot away and enter 2 shots for each of the next three club nights!

Quick recap on reversing rings/ extension tubes from last time.

REVERSING RINGS

- adaptor fits between camera and lens
- enables reverse mounting of lenses
- no focus control
- Small, inexpensive accessory
- ensure that ring you're using matches both your body mount and your lens' filter thread

Gear

EXTENSION TUBES

- When used in conjunction with 50mm lens, a 25mm tube gives you half-life-size image, and a full set 1:1 reproduction.
- Inexpensive accessory
- If you want incredible magnification try combining more than three tubes. Two sets would give around 140mm of extension
- Awkward to add, remove and combine to change magnification
- Expensive if auto exposure and auto focus required

If you want to purchase just 'Google' the names and check out the market for your make of camera. (Cost approx. £5 - £20)

Critique Aid

Right, so how can you do a photo critique?

1) Look

First of all, take a close look at the photograph. Let your eyes scan it closely: Make sure that you've caught every possible detail of the photo. If something jumps out at you as being really good or really bad, note it, but don't say anything.

2) Interpretation

Now, talk about the photo for a little bit. This is the thing that is most frequently overlooked when doing critiques, but is actually one of the most useful things you can do to a photographer. For the interpretation, start off by saying "When I look at this photo, I feel...". Explain what sort of emotional response the photo raises in you. Follow up with "I think this photo is about...". Any symbolism you spot, tell the photographer. If you aren't sure, let them know that.

3) Technical points

The next thing to take care of, is the technical points. Is the photograph technically okay? Did you spot dust, is the exposure okay, is there any unwanted blur (wrong focus, motion blur, zoom blur etc)? Are the colours accurately represented? What's the contrast like? Could the photographer have used lighting differently? Would a bigger or smaller aperture have been beneficial?

4) Artistic points

What do you think about the crop and aspect ratio? If the photo is in black and white, should it have been in colour and vice-versa? Is there a good balance between the foreground and the background? Would the photo have worked better with a different prop / model?

5) Good points

This is where you point out what you like about the photograph, and why. The why bit is most important: If you can't tell why you like X, Y, or Z, there's no point in mentioning it. "I like the sky" is useless. "I like the colour of the sky" is better. "I like the deep blue colour of the sky because it contrasts nicely with the yellows and reds in the photo" is perfect. Put some thought into this.

6) Points worth improving

This point is saved for last, because you've made the photographer more confident about their photograph by now. It is still important to remember that the photo has been taken, and that this photo can't really be changed anymore. As such, there's no point in slating people for their photographs. Tell them one or two specific points that could be improved on this particular photo ('clean up dust' and 'turn into black and white' are useful suggestions, as they can be done in the darkroom), and perhaps one or two points that you would have done differently, if you were the one taking the photograph.

7) Overall

How did this photo appear to you overall?